

that we pass the Breast Cancer Patient Protection Act.

We must also support research into better breast cancer detection methods. Mammographies, which is the only tool we have had for 40 years, miss too many women and cannot suffice as our gold standard. But instead of passing legislation to stop drive-through mastectomies or supporting funding increases for research and development, we have become a drive-through Congress, rushing to pass what is politically divisive.

This bill deserves passage.

IN SUPPORT OF FORMER CONGRESSMAN BOB MATHIAS

(Mr. NUNES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. NUNES. Mr. Speaker, some of you may know that former Congressman and two-time Olympic Gold Medalist Bob Mathias has been battling cancer for the past few years.

As many in this Chamber know, Bob is a fighter and is determined to beat it. As Bob continues his fight, I ask that we keep him and his family in our thoughts and prayers.

THE BREAST CANCER PATIENT PROTECTION ACT

(Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, breast cancer does not discriminate based on health care coverage.

Statistics tell us that one in seven American women will develop breast cancer; yet no one ever expects these things. No one plans or prepares to be diagnosed with breast cancer. No one preemptively investigates their health insurance coverage in the event that they require a mastectomy or a lumpectomy.

Suddenly these women, our mothers, our sisters, our daughters, are faced not only with a terrible, deadly diagnosis but with unnerving treatment decisions.

I am a cosponsor of the Breast Cancer Patient Protection Act to ensure one thing: that women don't have to worry about their health insurance plan during this terrifying experience. This is the law in Florida, and it should be the law of the land. While serving in the Florida legislature, I passed similar legislation, and my commitment has not wavered.

This bill mandates that women be covered for a 48-hour hospital stay after a mastectomy and a 24-hour stay for a lumpectomy. What is more, it ensures full coverage for follow-up care.

Asking anyone coping with a deadly disease to lose sleep over health insurance is outrageous. As a public servant, I believe I have a responsibility to stand up on this issue so that women

facing this trying ordeal can focus on what really matters: their family, their faith, and their future.

ISRAEL/IRAN

(Mr. KNOLLENBERG asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, the United States and our ally Israel stand at an important and historic juncture.

Iran's continued efforts to establish a nuclear weapons program and their continued efforts to assist Hezbollah, an internationally recognized terrorist organization, is in defiance of their obligations to a free and stable world.

Today I stand united with my friends in Israel, who face a constant threat by Iranian-sponsored Hezbollah terrorists.

The House has acted by passing H.R. 282, the Iran Freedom Support Act. If this bill is passed, a strong set of economic sanctions will begin to hold Iran responsible for their actions in the Middle East. It is critical that the Senate act on this companion legislation that is pending before them.

Congress must confront Iran's continued belligerence by halting that country's nuclear aspirations and work to prevent their further sponsorship of terrorists.

A TRIBUTE TO ANDREW VELEZ

(Mr. NEUGEBAUER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, this morning I come to this House with a very heavy heart. Earlier this week, PFC Andrew Velez was killed while tracking Osama bin Laden in Afghanistan.

It is always a tragedy when we lose one of our young soldiers, but this loss is especially tragic because less than 2 years ago, Andrew's older brother, Freddy, was also killed while protecting this country in fighting the war on terrorism.

The Velez family now has made the ultimate sacrifice for freedom and democracy not once, but twice. Andrew and Freddy Velez are American heroes. We must never forget the sacrifice of these two brothers for freedom.

My thoughts and prayers go out to Andrew's father, Roy; his stepmother, Carmen; Andrew's wife, Veronica; and his three children, Jasmine, Jordan, and Jacob as they mourn the loss of their son and their husband and their dad.

Mr. Speaker, the price of freedom has never been cheap, but I have to say that the Velez family has given an extra measure for freedom and democracy. I hold them in my prayers and ask all Americans to do so at the same time.

SECURITY FIRST

(Mr. STEARNS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, it is imperative that we secure our southern border immediately. One overlooked reason is the Department of Homeland Security has issued data which indicates that each year, hundreds of aliens from countries known to harbor terrorists or who promote terrorism are apprehended attempting to enter this country illegally. Since 2002, the number of non-Mexicans apprehended while trying to enter the United States illegally has increased 343 percent.

This is of great concern to me and to others. In the words of former Deputy Secretary ADM James Loy of Homeland Security: "Entrenched human smuggling and corruption in areas beyond our borders can be exploited by terrorist organizations."

There have been reports, Mr. Speaker, that terrorist organizations, including al Qaeda, have been operating, recruiting members, and maybe training terrorists in South American countries, including Argentina, Brazil, and Paraguay. This is particularly alarming when you consider that attempts to enter our country illegally from Brazil has increased 900 percent over the last 3 years.

It is imperative that we secure our borders now.

THE VIOLENCE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

(Mr. KUCINICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, casualties are mounting on all sides in the Middle East, and yet our government, representing the most powerful Nation in the world, stands aside and watches as civilian casualties mount everywhere.

Why in God's name aren't we getting involved to call for an end to the violence, to bring the parties together so that they can find a way to create peace?

We are required, by virtue of our standing in the world, to bring people together. Not to create more isolation, not to create more war, but to bring people together. We must get involved as this continues to spiral out of control. The whole world is watching and the entire world is at risk.

THE REPUBLICAN MAJORITY'S SECURITY AGENDA

(Mrs. BLACKBURN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, this Republican majority is dedicated to the security agenda. We have created a plan of action for leading that addresses the issues facing America today.

As part of our security agenda, we are promoting border security that halts illegal entry into the country. We are strengthening our national security by fighting terrorism in the Middle East where it begins, not on our own soil after an attack.

We are also promoting economic growth and job creation by lowering taxes and reducing regulation in order that families can plan for their very own secure future.

Energy security means America must harness our own domestic oil resources, expand oil refining capacity that is limited due to red tape, and at the same time carry out research and development for alternative energy sources while we focus on conservation's best practices.

We are fighting to defend the moral infrastructure that has made America great as part of our moral security agenda.

Mr. Speaker, we invite everyone to join us in a thoughtful process of securing America's future.

THE MINIMUM WAGE

(Mr. MCGOVERN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, the Federal minimum wage has been stuck at \$5.15 for 9 years. A minimum-wage worker working full time earns about \$10,712 a year. A minimum-wage worker has to work an entire day in order to be able to afford to fill their tank with gas.

Mr. Speaker, Members of Congress have awarded themselves eight pay raises since the last time we increased the Federal minimum wage. That is about \$35,000 in pay raises.

Mr. Speaker, 35 percent of workers who receive a minimum wage are their families' sole earners. Sixty-one percent are women and one-third of those women are raising children.

Here is the deal, I say to my Republican colleagues: have a heart. And if you are not going to allow us to have a clean vote up or down on the minimum wage, then bring to the floor a bill that repeals your pay raise. It is not right for Members of Congress to get a pay raise while they force millions of Americans to continue to live in poverty.

VAT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, as we head into August, it is worth noting our record so far this year in defense of traditional values.

Last month this body affirmed the role of fathers by passing a resolution to promote responsible fatherhood in America. Also in June, we got serious about enforcing broadcast decency standards by increasing fines for vio-

lating the law tenfold. Just this week the President signed the Freedom to Display the American Flag Act.

Last week we defended the Pledge of Allegiance from the whims of activist judges who seek to ban it from our schools. Although the Marriage Protection Amendment failed to get two-thirds support, it gained votes in both the House and Senate this year. Earlier this month we passed legislation to enforce laws prohibiting illegal online gambling. And last week we affirmed the dignity of human life by rejecting taxpayer funding of human embryo-destrating research.

Mr. Speaker, it has been a good first half of the year for millions of Americans who wish to see traditional American values defended on Capitol Hill. And I look forward to future successes when we reconvene after August.

WAIVING POINTS OF ORDER AGAINST CONFERENCE REPORT ON S. 250, CARL D. PERKINS CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2006

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 946 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 946

Resolved, That upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider the conference report to accompany the bill (S. 250) to amend the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act of 1998 to improve the Act. All points of order against the conference report and against its consideration are waived. The conference report shall be considered as read.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KUHLMANN of New York). The gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

House Resolution 946 provides for the consideration of the conference report to accompany Senate 250, the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Improvement Act of 2006 and waives all points of order against its consideration.

□ 1030

Mr. Speaker, I am actually proud to stand in support of this rule the underlying legislation, which reauthorizes important vocational education loans and programs. In our ever-changing economy, it is clear that education and training is more vital than ever before to both our Nation's economic growth and competitiveness, as well as the quality of life for individuals and their families.

This conference agreement will, among other things, direct the States to assess the effectiveness of State programs for career and technical education, with an emphasis on math and science, and also establishes performance indicators for those programs.

It will enhance coordination between secondary and post-secondary vocational programs and strengthen the role of the States in administering these programs, and this is a funding of a legislative priority.

This legislation allows for increased flexibility for States who choose the option to combine the Perkins State Grant with the Tech-Prep programs into one program, leading to greater program efficiencies. This once again is a State option.

It allows for the States to provide "incentive grants" to encourage and recognize exemplary performances in carrying out career and technical education programs.

It also will ensure the continued access to teachers for professional development certification.

Mr. Speaker, in 1917, the government first funded training for vocational programs relating to national defense. In 1963, we passed the first Vocational Education Act. It was modified in 1984 as the Carl Perkins Program, and again in 1990. So this program has been here in some way for 90 years in this Nation helping those vocational programs and training our citizens for their future.

I urge my colleagues to support this rule and the underlying legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. MCGOVERN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) for yielding me the customary 30 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, today this House is considering the conference report for the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Improvement Act. This is a good bill, a worthy bill. This bill addresses the needs of America's changing workforce and hopefully it will help close the gaps that threaten our long-term ability to compete in the global economy.

I want to express my appreciation and my respect for the leadership and hard work invested over the past 15 months by House Education and Workforce Committee Chairman BUCK McKEON and ranking member GEORGE MILLER in moving these vital issues forward and that resulted in this strong, bipartisan supported bill.

Mr. Speaker, the conference report successfully improves several aspects of the programs authorized under the Perkins Act. It provides for more effective accountability for these programs. It establishes stronger links to businesses and stronger partnerships between high schools, colleges and businesses, including small businesses. It